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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 ARAE-00 /029 W
---------- 010141
P 062000Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5066

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, CI
SUBJECT: PRESBYTERIAN ARRESTS

REF: STATE 236701

1. LOCAL CHURCH SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED ARRESTS OF PASTORS JUAN POLANCO POLANCO AND DENNIS O'SHEA CALDERA IN ANTOFAGASTA. REPORTEDLY POLANCO ARRESTED AT 2 P.N. SEPTEMBER 29 INSIDE THE CHURCH. HIS WIFE, EDITH SOTERO, AND CHILDREN ALSO DETAINED, BUT CHILDREN HAVE BEEN RE-LEASED. O'SHEA ARRESTED A SHORT TIME AFTER POLANCO. HE IS REPORTEDLY A CHILEAN NATIONAL WITH US CITIZEN PARENTS. BOTH PASTORS ARE MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERIAN SPLINTER GROUP CALLED "IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA EN RENOVACION."

2. ACCORDING TO REVEPEND SAM NALEGACH, HEAD OF COMMITTEE TO AID FOREIGNERS (CALEX), BOTH PASTORS AND POLANCO'S WIFE WERE MOVED TO SANTIAGO WHERE THEY ARE CURRENTLY DETAINED BY NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF INTELLI-GENCE (DINA). NALEGACH SPOKE WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY ENRIQUE MONTERO OCTOBER 3, WHO REPORTEDLY WOULD ONLY STATE THAT THEY ARE IN GOOD CONDITION; HE PRO-MISED TO GIVE NALEGACH MORE INFORMATION.

3. CONSULAR OFFICER OCTOBER 4 CALLED POLICE OFFICIAL ("INVESTIGACIONES") IN ANTOFAGASTA CONCERNING ARREST OF
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O'SHEA AND POSSIBILITY OF US CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT. IN

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RETURN CALL OFFICIAL SAID HE HAD CHECKED WITH ALL RELEVANT
GOC AGENCIES INCLUDING ARMED FORCES AND NO ONE NAMED
O'SHEA HAD BEEN DETAINED.

4. EMBASSY HAS INFORMALLY CONTACTED FOREIGN MINISTRY ON
URGENT BASIS -- BOTH TO OBTAIN FACTS IN CASE AND BECAUSE
OF POSSIBLE US CITIZEN ASPECT -- AND IS CHECKING OTHER
SOURCES.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba2
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: CASC, CI, (POLANCO POLANCO, JUAN), (OSHEA CALDERA, DENNIS)
To: STATE
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